

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF BROOKHAVEN
DEKALB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: Court Procedures for COVID-19

Date: April 20, 2022

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FOURTH STANDING ORDER ON COURT PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the Governor’s declaration of a Public Health State of Emergency due to the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 has expired;

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice’s declaration of a Statewide Judicial Emergency has expired;

WHEREAS, this Court adopted a plan to remain open, last updated August 27, 2021, that involved required masking, social distancing, and other safety precautions;

WHEREAS, the Court successfully and safely remained open and served the public during and after the Emergency declarations;

WHEREAS, the CDC and this Court found masking and social distancing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 during higher levels of community transmission and hospitalizations;

WHEREAS, the CDC currently identifies DeKalb County, Georgia, where the City of Brookhaven is located, along with all of its neighboring counties, as being at a “Low” Community COVID-19 level;

WHEREAS, the Court recognizes the continued, but reduced threat posed by the ongoing presence of COVID-19 throughout DeKalb County and desires to protect the health of those entering the courthouse for court proceedings;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby Orders as follows:

1. Prior to entry into the public areas of the courthouse, individuals (including court personnel) are required to:
 - a. Notify court personnel if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (including but not limited to fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above, cough, unexplained shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) and

- b. If experiencing such symptoms, NOT enter the public areas of the courthouse except to obtain a reset notice at the clerk's window while wearing a face mask fully covering the mouth and nose.
2. Until further notice, and other than as set forth in Section 1.b., above, face masks are optional and not required in public areas of the courthouse.
3. Social distancing will be encouraged, but not required in public areas of the courthouse.
4. Chairs in the courtroom will be spaced to maintain at least three feet of distance between individuals and should not be moved without permission of court staff.
5. A copy of this Order shall be posted outside the courthouse, in the lobby, and online for public review.
6. Anyone who violates this Order may be held in direct contempt of Court and subject to fines and incarceration.
7. This Order supersedes all other previous Orders to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order. This Order shall remain in effect until further notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 20th day of April, 2022.

Jonathan R. Granade

Jonathan R. Granade, Chief Judge
Brookhaven Municipal Court
DeKalb County, Georgia

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